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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/523,880

03/01/2005

Takumi Ujio

05089/HG

4402

1933 7590 07/25/2007
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EXAMINER

YANG, JIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1709

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,880

Applicant(s)

UJIRO ET AL.

Examiner

Jie Yang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/07/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledge of the receipt of "applicant argument/remarks" filed on 02/07/2005.

Claims 3-4, 7-12, and 14-17 have been amended from original claims, claims 18-21 have been added, and claims 1-21 are pending in application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-4, 18-21 drawn to a structural Cr-containing steel.

Group II, claim(s) 5-9, a manufacturing method for a structural Cr-containing steel.

Group III, claim(s) 10-17, drawn to an using for a structural Cr-containing steel.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: they lack the same of unity a posteriori because the common feature of "a structural Cr-containing steel" is known in the art. Katagiri et al (US 2001/0,000,580, thereafter '580) relates to a high-strength steel sheet. (Page 1, 1st paragraph). '580 shows a high-Cr ferritic stainless steel with a composition range overlap with the range recited in instant application as shown in following table.

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Element	From instant Claims (in wt%)	'580 (in wt%)	Overlapping range (in wt%)
C	0.002-0.02	0.003-0.1	0.003-0.02
Cr	6.0-10.0	1.8-8.0	6.0-8.0
Si	0.05-1.0	0-1.0	0.05-1.0
Mn	0.05-1.0	0.05-1.5	0.05-1.0
P	0-0.04	0-0.10	0-0.04
S	0-0.02	0-0.02	0-0.02
N	0.002-0.02	Trace amount	--
Al	0.001-0.1	0.003-0.10	0.003-0.1
Cu	0.1-1.0 (Cl.2,7)	0-2.0 (optional)	0.1-1.0
Ni	0.1-1.0 (Cl.3,8,18)	0-2.0 (optional)	0.1-1.0
Mo	0.1-1.0 (Cl.3,8,18)	0.01-2.0 (optional)	0.1-1.0
Nb	0.005-0.10 (Cl.4,9,19-21)	0.08-0.40 (optional)	0.08-0.10
V	0.005-0.20 (Cl.4,9,19-21)	0.08-0.40 (optional)	0.08-0.2
Fe	Balance	Balance	Balance

The inventions listed as Groups II and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the

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same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: they lack the same of unity a posteriori because the common feature of "a structural Cr-containing steel" is known in the art as discussed in above.

The inventions listed as Groups I and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: they lack the same of unity a posteriori because the common feature of "a structural Cr-containing steel" is known in the art as discussed in above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jie Yang whose telephone number is 571-270-1884. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Cleveland can be reached on 571-272-1418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JY

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MICHAEL B. CLEVELAND
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER